

NEWS RELEASE
December 19, 2022



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USF Contemporary Art Museum
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USF Contemporary Art Museum
Presents a New Exhibition
Supported by the National Endowment for the Arts

Poor People's Art:
A (Short) Visual History of Poverty
in the United States
January 13 – March 4, 2023



Jill Freedman, *Resurrection City*. Residents outside their shelters relax in the shadow of the Washington Monument in Resurrection City, a three thousand person tent city on the Washington Mall as part of the Poor People's Campaign. 1968. The Jill Freedman Irrevocable

(TAMPA, FL – DECEMBER 19, 2022) The USF Contemporary Art Museum, part of the Institute for Research in Art in the USF College of The Arts, presents ***Poor People's Art: A (Short) Visual History of Poverty in the United States***. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is well known for his "I Have a Dream" speech, yet much less emphasis is placed on his campaign to seek justice for America's poor, "The Poor People's Campaign." This was a multi-cultural, multi-faith, multi-racial movement aimed at uniting poor people and their allies to demand an end to poverty and inequality. Fifty-three years after Dr. King's death, the Reverend William Barber II launched a contemporary push to fulfill MLK's ambitious brief — one that calls for a "revolution of values" that unites poor and impacted communities across the country. The exhibition ***Poor People's Art: A (Short) Visual History of Poverty in the United States*** represents a visual response to Dr. King's "last great dream" as well as Reverend Barber's recent "National Call for Moral Revival."

With artworks spanning more than 50 years, the exhibition is divided into two parts: ***Resurrection (1968-1994)*** and ***Revival (1995-2022)***. ***Resurrection*** includes photographs, paintings, prints, videos, sculptures, books, and ephemera made by a radically inclusive company of American artists, from Jill Freedman's photographs of Resurrection City, the tent enclave that King's followers erected on the National Mall in 1968, to John Ahearn's plaster cast sculpture *Luis Fuentes, South Bronx* (1979). ***Revival*** offers contemporary engagement across a range of approaches, materials, and points of view. Conceived in a declared opposition to poverty, racism, militarism, environmental destruction, health inequities, and other interlocking injustices, this exhibition shows how artists in the US have visualized poverty and its myriad knock-on effects since 1968. Participating artists include John Ahearn, Nina Berman, Martha De la Cruz, Jill Freedman, Rico Gatson, Mark Thomas Gibson, Corita Kent, Jason Lazarus, Miguel Luciano, Hiram Maristany, Narsiso Martinez, Adrian Piper, Robert Rauschenberg, Rodrigo Valenzuela, William Villalongo & Shradha Ramani, and Marie Watt.

Poor People's Art is curated by Christian Viveros-Fauné, CAM Curator-at-Large and organized by the USF Contemporary Art



Rico Gatson, *Audre #2*, 2021. Color pencil and photograph collage on paper. 22 x 30 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Miles McEnery Gallery.

Museum. *Poor People's Art* is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts; the Schaina & Josephina Lurje Memorial Foundation; the Stanton Storer Embrace the Arts Foundation; the Lee & Victor Leavengood Endowment; the USFCAM ACE (Art for Community Engagement) Fund Patrons; Dr. Allen Root in honor of his late wife Janet G. Root; and the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

RELATED EVENTS

***Poor People's Art* Panel Discussion**

Thursday, January 12, 2023

7:00pm

USF School of Art & Art History Lecture Hall (FAH 101)

Join us for a panel discussion with artists featured in *Poor People's Art: A (Short) Visual History of Poverty in the United States*, including Nina Berman, Rico Gatson, and Jason Lazarus. Curator Christian Viveros-Fauné will lead the conversation exploring issues and topics addressed in the exhibition. This event is free and open to the public.

***Poor People's Art* Gallery Tour + Opening Reception**

Friday, January 13, 2023

6:30pm-9:00pm

USF Contemporary Art Museum (CAM)

Join us to celebrate the opening of *Poor People's Art: A (Short) Visual History of Poverty in the United States*. Exhibition curator Christian Viveros-Fauné and artist Miguel Luciano will lead a gallery tour at 6:30pm, followed by an opening reception until 9:00pm. This event is free and open to the public.

Old News/New News: Resurrection City and Visualizing Poverty in America

Thursday, January 26, 2023

6:00pm

USF School of Art & Art History Lecture Hall (FAH 101)

This talk considers the crucial role of photography in creating our understanding of poverty in America. Lisa Sutcliffe, Curator in the Department of Photographs of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Christian Viveros-Fauné, curator of *Poor People's Art: A (Short) Visual History of Poverty in the United States*, will discuss Jill Freedman's photographs of Resurrection City as well as the work of other photographers as they uncover the unique relationship between photography and the public perception of economic hardship. This event is free and open to the public.

EXHIBITION WORKBOOK

A full color, 44-page workbook is available to students and museum visitors without cost, and includes an essay by Christian Viveros-Fauné, Curator-at-Large.



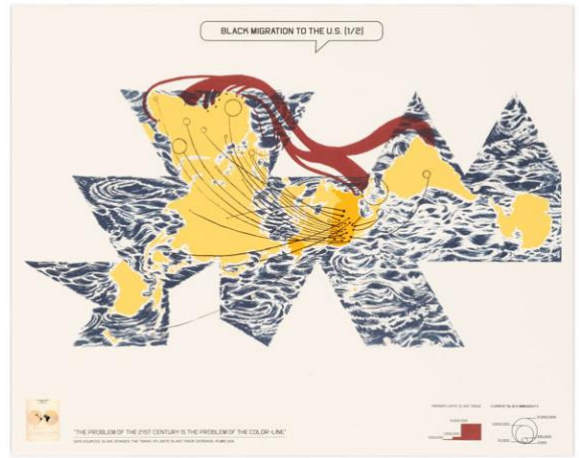
Hiram Maristany. *Kite Flying On Rooftop*, 1964. Courtesy of the Estate of Hiram Maristany.



Narsiso Martinez, *Hollywood & Vine*, 2022. Ink, charcoal, gouache, and acrylic on produce boxes. 97-1/2 x 63-1/2 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles. Photo credit: ofphotostudio.

ABOUT USF CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM

USF Contemporary Art Museum (USFCAM) organizes and presents significant and investigative exhibitions of contemporary art from Florida, the United States and around the world. Serving as a teaching laboratory, USFCAM's curatorial and socially engaged initiatives and educational programs are designed to present the students, faculty, and community with current issues of contemporary art practice, and to explore the role of the arts in society. USFCAM publishes relevant catalogues, presents critically recognized traveling exhibitions and commissions new projects by national and international artists. USFCAM maintains the university's art collection, comprising more than 5000 contemporary art works. CAM.USF.EDU



William Villalongo and Shradha Ramani, *Black Migration to the U.S. (1/2)*, 2022.
Lithograph, screenprint, and collaged archival pigment print. 16 x 20 inches.
Published by Graphicstudio, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL.
Photograph: Will Lytch.

Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-5pm, Thursday 10am-8pm, Saturday 1-4pm, Closed Sundays and University Holidays (January 16 in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday), Special Hours January 13th 6:30-9pm. **Admission:** All events are free and open to the public.



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